

# Report on COMMCLAVE: Panel Discussion on Leadership and Managerial Skills

Organized by COMMERCIA on 17.10.2024



On 17th October, 2024, **The Commerce Society 'COMMERCIA' of Sri Aurobindo College (Evening)** hosted **COMMCLAVE**, a panel discussion centered on leadership and managerial skills that brought together esteemed industry leaders. Under the leadership of the college principal, **Prof. Arun Chaudhary**, and teacher-in-charge, **Dr. Archana Agarwal**, the panel aimed to equip students with valuable knowledge essential for their professional development.



Welcome note by Dr Archana Agarwal



Lamp lighting

THE PANEL FEATURED **MR. RAJIV SIKKA, A STARTUP MENTOR AT IIM KASHIPUR AND FORMER CEO OF INDIAN OIL-ADANI GAS**, WHO SHARED HIS EXTENSIVE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE; **MR. DUSHYANT MISHRA, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AT LINDSTRÖM AND FOUNDER OF UNLEARN**, WHO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICAL LEADERSHIP; AND **MR. RAJA SINGH BHURJI, CEO OF THE STEPUP VENTURES AND A MENTOR AT NITI AAYOG**, WHO DISCUSSED THE INTERSECTION OF POLICY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

In the discussion, the focus was on the essential qualities of leadership and the role of effective management. The conversation underscored the importance of challenging oneself and becoming a valuable manager, as well as recognizing the ample opportunities available in today's dynamic landscape. It was highlighted that while becoming a leader can be a complex journey, the pathway to effective management is more accessible. A notable example was shared about the founder of first SoftBank, who developed a 300-year plan, illustrating how leaders set visionary goals while managers drive the execution of those visions.

Central to the discussion was the imperative to identify problems and devise innovative solutions, often taking a different approach from conventional methods. The panelists emphasized starting with great management skills, as each individual possesses the potential to emerge as a leader when the right opportunity arises. A strong focus on action was encouraged, promoting a proactive mindset that prioritizes progress



Panel discussion

Addressing the emotional challenges of leadership, the panelists discussed strategies for managing stress and overcoming setbacks. They reassured participants that failure is an inherent part of life and emphasized the importance of relinquishing the fear of failure.



Panel discussion

The mindset that one's best effort is not solely defined by outcomes was advocated, encouraging resilience in the face of challenges. The characteristics of a successful leader—such as modesty, humility, and an unwavering focus on ethical outcomes—were highlighted as foundational traits.

The conversation also delved into common mistakes made at the onset of a startup or career. It was noted that aspiring to be successful for the sake of wealth can lead to misguided priorities. Panelists advised against the pursuit of perfection at the initial stages of product development, suggesting that entrepreneurs should aim to create offerings that attract investors. Furthermore, the importance of collaboration was stressed; success rates increase significantly when individuals work alongside co-founders, leveraging each other's strengths.

As the discussion turned toward intergenerational learning, participants were encouraged to shift their questioning approach. Rather than asking, "What should I do?" individuals should frame their inquiries to explore possibilities and resources available to them. This shift in mindset fosters an entrepreneurial spirit and supports continuous evolution.

Legacy was another key topic, with a call to aim for ideas that can change the world. Examples of passionate figures, such as Fauja Singh and the philanthropic efforts of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, were mentioned as sources of inspiration for making a meaningful impact.



President vote of thanks

Moreover, the panelists identified critical skills for success, emphasizing the importance of competence, consistency, and the ability to learn, unlearn, and relearn. Attitude, too, was discussed as a fundamental aspect of leadership; how one approaches a situation can significantly influence outcomes. Ultimately, the panelists concluded that effective leaders possess a deep understanding of human relationships, which is essential for navigating the complexities of leadership and management in any field.



Felicitation of token of honour

The COMMCLAVE panel discussion provided an invaluable platform for students and attendees to learn from experienced leaders. The insights shared by Mr. Sikka, Mr. Mishra, and Mr. Bhurji not only inspired participants but also equipped them with practical knowledge applicable in their future careers. The event was a testament to the Commerce Society's commitment to enhancing the educational experience and preparing students for the challenges of the business world.

## Some Glimpses of panel discussion

